

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

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Chapter 6 section 2

CENTRAL UNION CHURCH M. P.

In Dr. I. A. Barne's history of the M. P. church in West Virginia, he refers to this class as the Pleasant Hill class. and goes on to say that a building was begun as a partnership enterprise by the Methodist Protestants and Dunkards, but a storm blew it down before it was finished, and no effort has been made to rebuild it.

I went down to Mrs. Granville Wilfongs yesterday. She has always been the secretary since this church was begun and she has all of the records. They show that on <sup>Oct. 1,</sup> 1923, the people of this community bought the old Marlinton Methodist church for the sum of \$650. They tore down this church and moved the lumber and begun work on rebuilding it on August 25, 1924. The frame work had been erected when on April 10, 1925 there was a storm which blew the church down. But in December of that same year this little band of worshipers went bravely to work to rebuild their church. It was completed and formerly opened for worship the following year, though it has never been dedicated.

Rev. J. W. Fugh, the Brethern minister, was the main <sup>minister</sup> ~~one~~ that sponsored the building of the church and he lead the people to think that it could be deeded to the Brethern and Methodist jointly. They went ahead and built with that understanding, but when it was completed they found out that it had to be deeded to one or the other denomination, and open only to the other, so

no deed has been made. Some time ago the Brethern told the Methodist that if they would pay off the debt on the church that they could have it deeded to them, with the understanding that the Brethern could preach in it once a month and could hold a two week revival once a year. The Methodists had about decided to accept this offer when the Methodist churches were united, and there was talk of discontinuing the church as a Methodist appointment because it was so close to Indian Draft, Saray and Fairview churches which are all Methodist churches.

Now the Brethern are talking of taking over the indebtedness and having the church deeded to them, but I don't know just what will be done. They offer the Methodist the same terms as they asked for themselves if it was made a Methodist church.

The people of one end of this community worshiped in the Pleasant Hill school house, and those of the other end of the community worshiped in the Brushy Flats school house before the church was built. There was some dissatisfaction over the use of school houses as a place for church services and the people saw the need for a church, but they are somewhat discouraged with all of the trouble they have had, and say that they will never again undertake the building of a church in partnership.

At the present time there are more Methodist members than there are Brethern. Each denomination preaches once a month and they of course have their Sunday School together, with Granville Wilfong as Superentendant and George Wheeler as the assistant. The families of Granville Wilfong, George Wheeler and Olie

Jackson are the pillars of this church.

The church lot was donated by Uriah Bird, who also gave \$50. in money to start off the donations. The rest of the money that has been paid on this church was raised by donation and church suppers. The committee appointed to collect the money consisted of Mrs. Olie Jackson, Granville Wilfong, Noah Bright, Messie Wilfong, Seebert Wilfong and George Wheeler. These same people were later made trustees of the church. The present trustees are Granville Wilfong, Jessie Wilfong, George Wheeler, Mrs. Olie Jackson and Hanson Sharp.

Some of the Methodist ministers that have preached in this community are D. S. Boggs, H. D. Sloan, Ritchie Smally, Paul Siegel, — Fowler, H. J. Hileman, B. M. Mitchell, and Arthur W. Lowe; and the present one S. K. Simpson. The only Brethern minister that has ever been on this work is Rev. J. W. Pugh.